
Monday
September 25, 1989

Part VI

**Department of
Transportation**

**Research and Special Programs
Administration**

49 CFR Parts 171 and 173

**Standards for Construction of Fireworks
and Novelties; Approval for
Transportation; Final Rule**

HM-202

October 1989

**Research and Special Programs
Administration**

49 CAR Part 172

[Docket No. HM-206; Notice No. 92-6]

RIN 2137-AB75

**Improvements to Hazardous Materials
Identification Systems**

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs
Administration (RSPA), DOT.

ACTION: Advance notice of proposed
rulemaking (ANPRM); extension of
comment period.

SUMMARY: On June 9, 1992, RSPA published an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPRM) in the Federal Register inviting public comment in regard to methods for improving the current placarding system, establishing a centralized reporting system and computerized data center and requiring carriers to establish continually monitored emergency response telephone systems. RSPA has received several requests from petitioners seeking an extension of the comment period in order to have more time to evaluate questions contained in the ANPRM. RSPA concurs, in part, with these requests and is extending the

comment period 60 days from August 10, 1992 until October 9, 1992.

DATES: The closing date for filing comments is extended from August 10, 1992, to October 9, 1992.

ADDRESSES: Address comments to Dockets Unit (DHM-30), Research and Special Programs Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington, DC 20590. Comments should identify the docket and notice number and be submitted, when possible, in five copies. Persons wishing to receive confirmation of receipt of their comments should include a self-addressed, stamped postcard. The Dockets Unit is located in room 8421 of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20590. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, except public holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Potter, Office of Hazardous Materials Standards, RSPA, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh St. SW., Washington, DC 20590. (202) 366-4488.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 9, 1992, RSPA published an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPRM) in the Federal Register inviting public comment in regard to methods for improving the current placarding system, establishing a centralized reporting system and computerized data center, and requiring carriers to establish continually monitored emergency response telephone systems (Docket HM-206, Notice 92-6, 57 FR 24532). RSPA has received petitions from the Hazardous Materials Advisory Council (HMAC) and the American Trucking Associations (ATA) and the American Petroleum Institute (API). HMAC requested a 120-day extension. ATA requested an extension either to November 10, 1992, or of 30 days following the availability of a National Academy of Science (NAS) report regarding the feasibility and necessity of implementing a centralized reporting and data system (scheduled for completion and submission to Congress and the Secretary of Transportation in November 1992). API also requested an extension until 30 days following availability of the NAS study. The petitioners said an extension of the comment period would allow sufficient time to address "the extensiveness and complexity of the 63 questions." In addition, HMAC asserted that since the NAS study regarding computerized tracking systems is still in progress, "a delay in the comments would provide the possibility of an open forum for discussion of the points raised in the

ANPRM and of points raised in the NAS final report."

RSPA agrees that additional time should be provided to evaluate and respond to the questions posed in the ANPRM. However, RSPA believes that completion of the NAS study need not precede submission of comments to the ANPRM or their evaluation by RSPA.

Extending the comment period to some date following completion of the NAS report would unduly delay consideration of the issues raised in the ANPRM. Therefore, RSPA is extending the comment period for 60 days, from August 10, 1992 until October 9, 1992, rather than for the longer periods requested by petitioners.

Issued in Washington, DC, on July 31, 1992 under authority delegated in 49 CFR part 106, appendix A.

Alan L. Roberts,
Associate Administrator for Hazardous
Materials Safety.

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